

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /057 W
-----020910Z 032413 /21

R 020330Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2933
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 3818

DEPARTMENT MAY REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AF, PK, LY, PFOR
SUBJECT: AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON PAKISTANI
CHARGES OF "U.S. INTERFERENCE"

REF: A) KABUL 3733; B) ISLAMABAD 5343 (NOTAL) C) KABUL 3284
(NOTAL) D) KABUL 3695 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH TELLS US THAT
THE TRIPOLI ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE RESO-
LUTION CONCERNING EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN WAS
GREATLY WATERED-DOWN FROM THE ORIGINAL VERSION DESIRED
BY THE PAKISTANIS. ABDULLAH IMPLIED THAT THE RESOLUTION
WAS PASSED AFTER HE AND MOST OTHER MINISTERS HAD LEFT
TRIPOLI. WE BELIEVE THAT THE AFGHANS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP

HANDS OFF THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AND THAT,
IN TELLING US ABOUT TRIPOLI, THEY ARE ALSO TRYING TO

CONVINCE US THEY DON'T BELIEVE THE PAKISTANI CHARGES OF
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U.S. INTERFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 31, DURING A COURTESY CALL BY THE AMBASSADOR
ON WAHEED ABDULLAH, AFGHANISTAN'S MINISTER-IN-CHARGE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE LATTER RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE
RECENT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AT TRIPOLI,
TAKING THE OCCASION TO DESCRIBE HIS EFFORTS TO PREVENT

CONFERENCE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ECHOING THE CURRENT
PAKISTANI PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ABOUT "U.S. INTERFERENCE"
AGAINST THE BHUTTO REGIME.

3. ABDULLAH REPORTED THAT HE HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO
DISCUSS BHUTTO'S CHARGES PRIVATELY WITH PAKISTANI FOREIGN
MINISTER, AZIZ AHMED, STUORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN TRIPOLI.
ABDULLAH SAID THAT HE ASKED AHMED WHETHER HE HAD
ACTUALLY SEEN ANY DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD SUPPORT
BHUTTO'S CHARGES. AZIZ AHMED ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD
NOT, BUT THAT BHUTTO HAD TOLD HIM THAT EVIDENCE EXISTS.
ABDULLAH THEN EXPRESSED TO AHMED HIS OPINION THAT THE
CHARGES WERE BASELESS AND MADE NO SENSE.

4. ABDULLAH SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD THE LIBYAN FOREIGN
MINISTER IN TRIPOLI IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER ISLAMIC
FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT THE U.S. "HAD TRAINED THE ENTIRE
OFFICER CORPS OF PAKISTAN UNDER THE RANK OF GENERAL";
THEREFORE, ALL THE AMERICANS WOULD HAVE HAD TO DO, IF
THEY REALLY WANTED TO CONTROL EVENTS THERE, WOULD BE TO
INSTRUCT THE "APPROPRIATE COLONEL" TO STAGE A COUP.
HE SAID THE OTHER MINISTERS HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY
THIS LINE OF REASONING AND NONE OF THEM HAD BELIEVED
THE PAKISTANI CHARGES AGAINST US.

5. ABDULLAH OPINED THAT IT WOULD MAKE NO SENSE FOR THE
U.S. TO DESTABILIZE PAKISTAN---NOR WOULD AFGHANISTAN
BE INTRESTED IN CREATING SUCH CHAOS. HE OBSERVED THAT
KABUL WOULD ONLY HAVE TO "PASS THE WORD TO THE PUSHTUNS
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AND THE BALUCHIS---AND SLIP GUNS AND BOMBS OVER THE
FRONTIER, BUT THIS WOULD BE FOOLISH".

6. ABDULLAH REPORTED THAT THE LIBYANS HAD TRIED TO
PUSH THROUGH A PAKISTANI-INSPIRED RESOLUTION WITH
"U.S. INTERFERENCE" LANGUAGE, BUT THAT HE AND
SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS HAD BLOCKED THIS EFFORT.
BECAUSE THIS MOVE FAILED, THE PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER
LEFT THE CONFERENCE EARLY IN FRUSTRATION.

7. ABDULLAH CLAIMED THAT THE MUCH WATERED-DOWN CON-
FERENCE RESOLUTIONCONTAINING "U.S. INTERFERENCE"
LANGUAGE (REFTEL B) WAS SLIPPED THROUGH BY THE LIBYANS
NEAR THE END OF THE MEETING AFTER MANY OF THE DELEGATION
LEADERS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, HAD ALREADY DEPARTED. HE
IMPLIED THAT THE AFGHANS HAD NOT JOINED IN THE VOTE.

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 3818

DEPARTMENT MAY REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS

8. COMMENT. BASED UPON OUR OWN ASSESSMENT OF AFGHAN INTERESTS, WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE ESSENCE OF WAHEED ABDULLAH'S DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS, EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE EMBELLISHED THE AFGHAN ROLE FOR OUR BENEFIT. UNTIL VEHY RECENTLY, AFGHAN POLICY REGARDING THE TROUBLES IN PAKISTAN HAS BEEN TO REMAIN ALOOF AND TO MAINTAIN A STRICT PUBLIC SILENCE, WHILE, BY IMPLICATION, HOPING THAT SOMEHOW BHUTTO WOULD WEATHER THE STORM, SO THAT HE AND DAOUD COULD GET ON WITH THEIR BILATERAL RAPPROCHEMENT. IN OUR VIEW, THIS HANDS-OFF POLICY DID NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE ANY AFGHAN AFFECTION FOR BHUTTO, BUT RATHER THAT KABUL MERELY VIEWED THE CONTINUATION OF A KNOWN REGIME AS THE MOST PALATABLE OF THE VARIOUS IDENTIFIABLE OPTIONS (REFTEL C). ALTHOUGH THIS MEDIA SILENCE HAS BEEN CRACKED (IF NOT COMPLETELY BROKEN) OF LATE (REFTEL D), WE STILL PERCEIVE A SINCERE AND PROBABLY STRONG GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) RELUCTANCE TO BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN THE INTERNAL PAKISTAN QUAGMIRE. THUS, FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, IT STRIKE US AS LOGICAL THAT THE AFGHANS WOULD HAVE RESISTED THE INCLUSION OF SUCH PRO-BHUTTO LANGUAGE
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AS EVENTUALLY APPEARED IN THE FINAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS, AND, UNLESS WAHEED ABDULLAH WAS ABSOLUTELY DIS-

SEMBLING (WHICH WE DOUBT), THE INCLUSION OF THESE PARAGRAPHS COULD MEAN THAT THE AFGHANS WERE CLEVERLY FINESSED BY THEIR ISLAMIC BROTHERS, POSSIBLY FOLLOWING WAHEED ABDULLAH'S DEPARTURE FROM TRIPOLI. WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE, AFGHAN MEDIA HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR SILENCE ON THIS ISSUE, AND, THUS, WITHIN THE COUNTRY AT LEAST, THE GOA IS NOT ATTEMPTING TO MAKE ANY HAY AT U.S. EXPENSE. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, THAT IN REPORTING ALL THIS TO ME, ABDULLAH PREEMPTED ANY SCOLDING I MIGHT HAVE BEEN INCLINED TO GIVE HIM ABOUT THE TRIPOLI RESOLUTION ON PAKISTAN (REFTEL A). THIS INDEED MAY HAVE BEEN HIS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR RAISING THE SUBJECT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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